

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A messaging method comprising:
~~configuring a messaging device of the called party to store outgoing messaging and connection parameters;~~
~~receiving an indication of a call from a calling party to a called party via an Internet protocol network;~~
answering ~~[[the]]~~ a call from a calling party in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format at a premises of ~~[[the]]~~ a called party;
~~prompting the calling party to leave a message;~~
saving at least a portion of ~~[[the]]~~ a message as an electronic audio file, wherein the message is received from the calling party via the call;
~~recognizing that the calling party left the message;~~
identifying an email address associated with the calling party by comparing caller identification (ID) information received to a contact list, wherein the caller ID information is received with the call;
preparing an outgoing email message in response to recognizing that the message has been received the calling party left the message, wherein the outgoing email message including includes the email address associated with the calling party;
attaching the electronic audio file to the outgoing email message;
addressing the outgoing email message to a network node associated with a unified messaging mailbox of the called party; and
initiating sending of the outgoing email message and the attached electronic audio file from the premises to the network node~~[[;]]~~
~~wherein the call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol call.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
disconnecting from the call;
prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service
Provider;

recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
outputting information representing the outgoing email message for delivery via the
connection.

3-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the outgoing email message has
a format selected from the group consisting of an electronic mail message format, a mobile alert
format, an Instant Messaging (IM) format, [[an]] a Short Messaging Service (SMS) format, an
Enhanced Messaging Service (EMS) format, and [[an]] a Multi-media Messaging Service
(MMS) format.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that a data connection exists; and
utilizing the data connection to send the outgoing email message.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the outgoing email message^{[[s]]}
comprises a multi-modal message having an audio component and a non-audio component.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the
electronic audio file into [[an]] a uuencoded text format.

11-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating unified messaging, the method comprising:

communicatively coupling a messaging device to a premises network that is

communicatively coupled to a wide-area communication network, the wide-area communication network comprising an Internet P[[p]]rotocol network; and
~~communicatively coupling a telephone station at the premises to the messaging device;~~
~~communicatively coupling a computer to the messaging device;~~
~~configuring the messaging device to store outgoing messaging and connection parameters; and~~

employing the messaging device to:

answer an incoming telephone call from a calling party;[[, to]]

play a pre-recorded message that prompts the calling party to leave a message;[[, to]]

record a voice message from the calling party;[[, to]]

compare caller identification (ID) information received with the incoming telephone call to a contact list to identify an email address associated with the calling party;[[, to]]

compose an electronic mail message in response to the voice message, wherein the electronic mail message includes the email address associated with the calling party;[[, to]]

attach an electronic audio file representing the voice message to the electronic mail message;[[,]] and [[to]]

initiate sending of the electronic mail message via the wide-area communication network[[;]]

~~wherein the outgoing electronic mail message includes the email address of the calling party.~~

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising executing code directing [[the]] a computer to store a username and a password in a memory associated with the messaging device, to indicate a messaging address for an intended recipient of the electronic

mail message, and to indicate an identifier [[for]] of a remote messaging server communicatively coupled to the wide-area network.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining that a data connection exists interconnecting the premises network and a
node of the wide-area communication network; and
utilizing the data connection to send the electronic mail message.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
disconnecting from the incoming telephone call;
prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service
Provider;
recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
utilizing the connection to send the electronic mail message.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the audio file has a format
selected from the group consisting of a Waveform audio format (.WAV) file, [[an]] a Moving
Picture Experts Group Audio Layer MPEG-1 (MP3) file, a Musical Instrument Digital Interface
(.MIDI) file, and a .AU file.

26-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having storing computer-readable instructions that when executed by a processor, cause the processor [[data]] to:
~~configure a messaging device of the called party to store outgoing messaging and~~
~~connection parameters,~~
~~answer an incoming telephone call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format from~~
~~a calling party via an Internet P[[p]]rotocol network;[[, to]]~~
~~play a pre-recorded message that prompts the calling party to leave an audio portion of a~~
~~message and that prompts the calling party to include non-audio data with the~~
~~message;[[, to]]~~
~~record a voice message from the calling party;[[, to]]~~
obtain an email address associated with the calling party by comparing caller
identification (ID) information to a contact list, wherein the caller ID information
is received with the incoming telephone call;
~~compose an outgoing electronic mail message in response to the voice message, [[to]]~~
wherein the outgoing electronic mail message includes the email address
associated with the calling party;
~~attach an audio file representing the voice message to the outgoing electronic mail~~
~~message; and~~
~~initiate sending of the outgoing electronic mail message; wherein the incoming telephone~~
~~call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol call.~~

30. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the audio file is encoded in [[an]] a uuencoded text format.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) A messaging system, comprising:

a network interface responsive to an Internet Protocol network to receive a call;

a call answering mechanism to:

answer the call; ~~in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format, to~~

prompt ~~[[the]]~~ a calling party to leave an audio portion of a message; ~~[[,]]~~ and

~~[[to]]~~

prompt the calling party to leave a non-audio portion of the message;

~~a memory to store the message; and~~

a messaging engine to:

obtain an email address associated with the calling party by comparing caller

identification (ID) information to a contact list, wherein the caller ID

information is received with the call;

compose an outgoing electronic mail message including the ~~stored~~ audio portion

of the message, [[and]] the non-audio portion[[s]] of the message, and the

email address associated with the calling party; and [[to]]

transmit the outgoing electronic mail message to a remote messaging server~~[[;]]~~

~~a messaging device configured to store outgoing messaging and connection parameters;~~

~~and~~

~~a VoIP engine communicatively coupled to the network interface to process the call.~~

33. (Previously presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a text message.

34. (Currently amended) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a visual message, wherein the visual message is not a textual message.

35-36. (Canceled).

37. (New) The messaging method of claim 1, further comprising preparing a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.

38. (New) The messaging method of claim 37, wherein the reply email message is prepared in response to receipt of the outgoing email message by a user.

39. (New) The messaging method of claim 37, wherein the outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated in response to a user-generated reply request.

40. (New). The method of claim 9, wherein the non-audio component includes a visual message, wherein the visual message is not a textual message.

41. (New) The method of facilitating unified messaging of claim 21, further comprising preparing a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.

42. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 29 storing instructions that when executed by the processor, cause the processor to prepare a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.

43. (New) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the messaging engine is further to prepare a reply email message, wherein an outgoing address line of the reply email message is automatically populated with the email address associated with the calling party.